

PALATINE, IL – Today, Congresswoman Melissa Bean (IL-08) delivered an in-depth evaluation and description of her accomplishments this year as well as her preliminary plans for next year in a major State of the District speech. The address, delivered at the Palatine Chamber of Commerce’s Installation Luncheon, is part of Congresswoman Bean’s ongoing dialogue with the constituents of Illinois’ Eighth Congressional District.

“One reason I ran for Congress was to ensure that the people of the Eighth District receive the active, responsive representation they had been lacking for decades,” Bean said, “I am proud of what I’ve been able to accomplish in Congress, but more remains to be done. I will continue to reach out to my constituents, listen to their concerns and ensure that their priorities are addressed in Washington.”

The following is a description of the initiatives Congresswoman Bean began in her first year and will continue to fight for in 2006:

Leading the Fight Against Identity Theft: Congresswoman Bean introduced legislation to help protect personal financial information, and has hosted a number of forums informing constituents on how to protect themselves.

Supporting Small Businesses: As a member of the Small Business Committee, Congresswoman Bean actively encourages investment and job growth and successfully fought to reduce 7(a) loan fees and advanced legislation to expand Small Business Development Centers.

Tax Relief for Middle Class Families: Congresswoman Bean voted to protect families from the Alternative Minimum Tax and supported additional tax credits or deductions for college tuition, greater retirement savings and for personal medical expenses.

Reducing Spending and Fighting Waste: A fiscal conservative, Congresswoman Bean voted to cut over \$100 billion dollars in federal spending, opposed wasteful government subsidies and fiscally irresponsible budget bills.

Delivering for the District: This year, Congresswoman Bean obtained \$24 million in funding for local road projects and millions more to expand Metra service. She also secured millions of dollars in federal funding for local environmental protection projects and local police and firefighters.

Accessible, Visible and In-Touch with People: Congresswoman Bean hosted dozens of

public events where she personally met nearly 2,000 constituents. Her office has processed over 1,100 constituent cases and answered 20,000 constituent letters.

Supporting National Defense and Strengthening Homeland Security: Congresswoman Bean continues to vote for better protection for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. She has also co-sponsored legislation to protect commercial airlines from shoulder-fired missiles, and voted to strengthen our borders and reduce illegal immigration.

Protecting Our Environment: This year, Congresswoman Bean successfully argued for a permanent ban on oil drilling in the Great Lakes, supported developing clean, renewable alternative energy, and voted to provide incentives for flexible fuel and higher efficiency vehicles.

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